

ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JAMES L. HILL

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

by

WILLIAM L. BELL

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

For the Year 1948

including the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. W. G. CORNER

M.S.I.A.



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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health (Temporary) :

J. W. WEBB, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health (Permanent) :

J. L. HILL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

A. W. G. CORNER (Cert. R.S.I.), M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :

A. H. V. MARSDEN, M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

M. HODGKINS, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

J. FORREST, M.R.San.I.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Rodent Officer :

J. R. SNELL.

General Assistants :

H. W. FRY.

I. D. PRESTON (resigned 31st December, 1948).

R. A. WARD (Temporary).

Shorthand-Typist :

Miss M. PANNELL.

Junior Clerk :

Mr. D. PLATT.

ETON RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1948

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and General
Purposes Committee.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report dealing with the health in the district for the year 1948.

The delay in presenting this report is regretted, and is due to the non-appointment of a permanent Medical Officer of Health between the time that Dr. J. L. Hill died in the Spring of 1949 and my appointment in August, 1949.

A study of the statistics shows that the health of the district was again maintained at a high level.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM L. BELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Area (Land and Inland Water) | 35,500 acres |
| Population (Registrar-General's Estimate) ... | 42,370 |
| Number of inhabited houses at end of 1948 | |
| according to Rate Books | 11,015 |
| Rateable Value, 1.4.48 | £387,937 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | £1,698 |

TABLE I

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|------|-----|--------|-------|
| Total | 681 | Male | 364 | Female | 317 |
| Legitimate | 634 | Male | 340 | Female | 294 |
| Illegitimate | 47 | Male | 24 | Female | 23 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 population | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16·07 |
| National Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17·9 |

Still Births

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|------|-----|--------|------|
| Total | 14 | Male | 7 | Female | 7 |
| Legitimate | 13 | Male | 6 | Female | 7 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | Male | 1 | Female | — |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0·33 |
| National Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0·42 |

Deaths

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|------|-----|--------|------|
| Total | 421 | Male | 214 | Female | 207 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9·9 |
| National Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10·8 |
| Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth :— | | | | | |
| (a) From Sepsis | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) From other causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

Death Rates from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 Total Births

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| (a) From Sepsis... | ... | Nil | National Rate 0.13 |
| (b) From other causes | ... | 1.4 | National Rate 0.73 |
| (c) Total... | ... | 1.4 | National Rate 0.86 |

Deaths of Infants under One Year of age

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|----|------|----|--------|----|
| Total | ... | 20 | Male | 10 | Female | 10 |
| Legitimate | ... | 17 | Male | 8 | Female | 9 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 3 | Male | 2 | Female | 1 |

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| All Infants per 1,000 Live Births | ... | ... | 29.3 |
| National Rate | ... | ... | 34.0 |

Deaths from Measles (all ages)

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|-----|---|--------|-----|---|-------|-----|-----|
| Male | ... | — | Female | ... | — | Total | ... | Nil |
|------|-----|---|--------|-----|---|-------|-----|-----|

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|-----|---|--------|-----|---|-------|-----|-----|
| Male | ... | — | Female | ... | — | Total | ... | Nil |
|------|-----|---|--------|-----|---|-------|-----|-----|

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2)

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|-----|---|--------|-----|---|-------|-----|-----|
| Male | ... | — | Female | ... | — | Total | ... | Nil |
|------|-----|---|--------|-----|---|-------|-----|-----|

Births

The birth rate per 1,000 population for 1948 at the figure of 16.07 shows a decrease over the 1947 figure of 19.4 and is slightly below the national rate of 17.9.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate at 29.3 per 1,000 live births compares with a national figure of 34.0 and shows a further improvement on the 1946 and 1947 figures for this district.

Deaths

The total number of deaths in the district was 421, giving a rate of 9.9 against the national rate of 10.8.

The chief causes of death were in accordance with the usual findings, i.e., heart disease, cancer, and cerebral hæmorrhage in that order of frequency. Deaths from cancer rose whilst those in respect of tuberculosis have fallen.

TABLE II
CAUSES OF DEATH in the Eton Rural District during 1948

| | | | | | | Male | Female |
|----------------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|
| All Causes ... | | | | | | 214 | 207 |
| 1. | Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 2. | Cerebro-Spinal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| 3. | Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 4. | Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 5. | Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 6. | Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 3 |
| 7. | Other forms of Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 8. | Syphilitic Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | — |
| 9. | Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 10. | Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 11. | Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| 12. | Acute Infective Encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 13. | Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus M, Uterus F | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 |
| 14. | Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 5 |
| 15. | Cancer of Breast... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 9 |
| 16. | Cancer of all other sites | ... | ... | ... | ... | 38 | 24 |
| 17. | Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| 18. | Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 | 34 |
| 19. | Heart Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 65 | 60 |
| 20. | Other Diseases of Circulatory System | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 8 |
| 21. | Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 | 6 |
| 22. | Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 9 |
| 23. | Other Respiratory Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 |
| 24. | Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| 25. | Diarrhoea, under 2 years | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 26. | Appendicitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | — |
| 27. | Other Digestive Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 |
| 28. | Nephritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 5 |
| 29. | Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 30. | Other Maternal Causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| 31. | Premature Birth... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 32. | Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, In- fant Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 7 |
| 33. | Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 3 |
| 34. | Road Traffic Accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 1 |
| 35. | Other Violent Causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 6 |
| 36. | All Other Causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 10 |

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Staff

The staff of Sanitary Inspectors has remained unchanged in personnel and has continued to work in an efficient and harmonious manner. Only one minor change of office staff occurred.

Other Services

The National Health Service Act, 1946, came into force in July and therefore comment on such matters as ambulance services, isolation hospital, supply of insulin and immunisations is restricted briefly to the period prior to this change-over.

AMBULANCE SERVICES. Continued on the same satisfactory lines.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. The Cippenham Isolation Hospital, Slough, dealt with infectious cases from the district needing hospital treatment and effective isolation.

SUPPLY OF INSULIN. Free supplies of insulin were made to two persons.

IMMUNISATIONS. Immunisations in respect of diphtheria and whooping cough continued on the same lines as indicated in previous Annual Report.

SECTION III

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

Five water Undertakings provide supplies to the district as detailed in the Report for the year 1946. Apart from the provision of supplies to newly-erected houses, no substantial alteration took place in the number of premises supplied by the Undertakings. The scheme for the provision of main supplies to the Parish of Wraysbury has not made such progress that any definite conclusion could be reached when it will be implemented. The other schemes referred to in the Report for 1947, i.e., Boveney and Taplow, have been completed.

The several water Undertakings have advised as follows :—

BURNHAM, DORNEY & HITCHAM WATERWORKS CO., LTD.
Mains laid : Burnham, 507 yds. (4-in.) ; Dorney (Boveney), 1,092 yds. (3-in.) ; Farnham Common, 183 yds. (3-in.) ; Taplow, 26 yds. (3-in.), 3,538 yds. (4-in.), 2,378 yds. (6-in.). Thirty-one samples sent for analysis and in all cases results were of very high standard.

AMERSHAM, BEACONSFIELD & DISTRICT WATER CO. (INC.).
Further extensions carried out to serve the Council Housing Estate at Fulmer Road, Gerrards Cross. The water supplied by the Company is of high quality (see result of analysis below*) and there is always an ample supply available. The water is treated at the source with chlorine and is also dechlorinated before passing into supply.

*** Report** (dated 13.5.49)

(Chemical results in parts per million)

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Appearance ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Clear and bright |
| Turbidity (Silica Scale) | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Colour (Hazen) | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Odour ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Slight chlorinous |
| Reaction pH. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7·0 |
| Free Carbon Dioxide | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| Electric Conductivity at 20°C. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 495 |
| Total Solids, dried at 180°C. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 330 |
| Chlorine in Chlorides | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 240 |
| Hardness— | | | | | |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 270 |
| Carbonate (temporary) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 240 |
| Non-Carbonate (permanent) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4·2 |
| Nitrogen in Nitrites | ... | ... | ... | ... | Less than 0·01 |
| Free Ammonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0·000 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0·000 |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0·05 |
| Residual Chlorine | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0·35 |
| Metals | ... | ... | ... | ... | Absent |

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in | { | 1 day at 37°C. |
| | | 0 |
| | | 2 days at 37°C. |
| | | 0 |
| | | 3 days at 20°C. |
| | | 0 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| | | Present | Absent |
| | | in | from |
| Presumptive coliform reaction | ... | — | 100 ml. |
| Bact. coli. | ... ... ... ... | — | 100 ml. |
| Cl. welchii reaction | ... ... ... | — | 100 ml. |

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

RICKMANSWORTH & UXBRIDGE VALLEY WATER CO.
Mains laid : Wraysbury, 38 yds. (4-in.) ; Iver, 9 yds. (9-in.), 35 yds. (12-in.), 203 yds. (15-in.) ; Denham, 289 yds. (3-in.), 110 yds. (2-in.).

The water supplied in the Eton Rural Area is a mixture of water drawn from borings situated at Ickenham and West Drayton, the characteristics of these waters (results expressed in parts per 100,000) being :—

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----------|
| Ickenham | ... | ... | ... | 24·5 | Temporary |
| | | | | 4·5 | Permanent |
| | | | | <hr/> | |
| | | | | 29·0 | Total |
| | | | | <hr/> | |
| West Drayton | ... | ... | ... | 18·5 | Temporary |

BOROUGH OF SLOUGH. Mains laid : Datchet, 112 yds. (3-in.), 90 yds. (4-in.) ; Iver (Colnbrook By-pass), 67 yds. (4-in.). The quality of the water has remained consistently high as shown by examination carried out (a) monthly by the Medical Officer of Health (Borough) ; (b) quarterly by the Counties Public Health Laboratory ; and (c) special check samples from time to time. The supply from chalk-bearing strata at Datchet considered to be sufficient when fully developed by additional boreholes to meet all probable future needs of the supply area. During the year additional pumping plant installed as first section of major improvement scheme. Anticipated at later

date (subject to M.O.H. sanction) further plant will be installed and large ring main further proceeded with. In view of consistently high quality of water no treatment necessary before pumping into mains but as a precautionary measure against suddenly arising pollution chlorination is practised.

Apart from the samples taken by the Undertakings themselves, 17 samples were taken by this Authority from main supplies.

Sixty-seven samples of water were also taken from premises supplied otherwise than by the Undertaking ; e.g., tube wells, etc., and of these, 41 were satisfactory and 26 unsatisfactory.

Drainage and Sewage

The reception and treatment of sewage remains substantially the same as reported in 1946 to the four sewage works of the Council at Burnham, Gerrards Cross, and Iver Northern and Southern, and mainly in respect of the three parishes named. Whilst the number of premises served by cesspools and conservancy systems remains approximately the same the Council have under consideration or in course of progress the provision of small disposal plants for groups of Council houses not in sewered areas.

A small extension of sewer was carried out at Thorney Lane, Iver, to 10 shops and dwellings ; a Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed in February in respect of site of pumping station for a proposed small extension at North Park, Iver ; and consideration was given in respect of a proposed sewer extension for the Thorney Lane Industrial Area.

On the 31st March a Local Inquiry was held at the Council's Offices by the Ministry of Health in relation to the application to the Minister for consent to borrow the sum of £553,785 for work of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for the parishes of Burnham (part), Datchet, Denham, Dorney, Farnham Royal, Hedgerley, Horton, Stoke Poges, Taplow, Wexham and Wraysbury. The proposals, which were strongly supported by your then Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector, would provide for satisfactory drainage of the majority of the Council's area and would obviate the need for cesspools and other forms of conservancy which, apart from the restrictions on the reasonable use of water for domestic and other purposes, the difficulties of emptying and disposal, give rise to continued complaints and protests from the unfortunate occupiers. Arising from this Inquiry consideration by several Authorities is being given to the question of alternative means of disposal in regard to the proposals for Denham, Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury.

Three samples of sewage effluent were taken from small private disposal works and submitted for chemical examination.

Public Cleansing

This year (1948) was the first when a scheme complete, with the exception of street cleansing, was carried out throughout the district by the Council with direct labour, plant and vehicles.

During the year 12,903 emptyings of cesspools were done representing the carriage and disposal of 23,970 loads (750 gallons) for a mileage of 118,520—the figures for 1944 (7,350 emptyings, 69,604 miles), although excluding work by contractors, indicate a considerable increase but it is not anticipated that there will be any undue increase over the figures for 1948. There has been no important change in the means and facilities for disposal.

Refuse collection continued on the fortnightly period basis. Several applications were made by individuals and Parish Councils for a weekly collection, but, although consideration was given to this aspect, shortage of labour remained the chief obstacle. Details of work show that collections were made from 11,414 premises representing 6,104 loads (equivalent to approximately 44,607 cubic yards) and mileage covered 91,268 miles. Here again comparison with the figures for year 1945—7,713 premises, 3,763 loads (21,064 cubic yards) and 44,933 miles—although excluding work of contractors, shows a substantial increase. Disposal of household refuse continued mainly by controlled tipping methods although the incinerator at Horton was in use for short periods. Difficulties have been experienced from time to time in regard to tipping sites, and constant vigilance is necessary together with ample foresight in respect of new and alternative sites.

The emptying of pail closets was carried out weekly by the Council throughout the district and the number so dealt with was estimated at the end of the year as being 777—an increase of 27.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

A detailed report of the premises visited and action taken is included in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Swimming Pools

The only swimming bath open to the public in this district is the privately-owned one at Burnham Beeches. Continuous filtration and chlorination is the method used to preserve the purity of the water. Two samples taken during the bathing season and submitted for bacteriological examination proved to be of a satisfactory standard.

Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

| Premises (1) | Number on Register (2) | Number of | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Inspec- tions (3) | Written notices (4) | Occupier prosecuted (5) |
| (i) Factories in which sec- tions, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority | 19 | 54 | 4 | Nil |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Au- thority | 109 | 68 | 10 | Nil |
| (iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) | — | — | — | — |
| Total ... | 128 | 122 | 14 | — |

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

| Particulars (1) | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6) |
|---|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| | Found (2) | Reme- died (3) | Referred | | |
| | | | To H.M. Insp. (4) | By H.M. Insp. (5) | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | — |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable Tempera- ture (S.3) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defec- tive | 3 | 2 | — | — | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including of- fences relating to out- work) | 13 | 1 | 13 | — | — |
| Total ... | 24 | 11 | 14 | 2 | — |

SECTION IV

HOUSING

Details of number of new houses built by the Council and private enterprise, inspections, formal action taken, are included in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION V

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Dairies including producers' and retailers' premises have been inspected frequently and the Sanitary Inspectors have co-operated with other licensing authorities particularly in regard to producers' premises and in other doubtful cases have contacted the Food and Drugs Authority.

One dairy only continued to carry out the pasteurising process under licence and the samples of milk taken at the plant showed satisfactory results and in conformity with the appropriate Order.

One hundred and seventeen samples of milk were taken from producers and retail premises and submitted in the majority of cases to the Public Health Services Laboratory at Reading. These samples included a number in respect of ungraded or raw milks, for which there is as yet no legal standard and in references as below to unsatisfactory samples this factor must be borne in mind. Repeat samples were taken shortly after in such instances.

| Designation | | | | No. | Satisfactory | | Full test | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------------|----|---------------|---|
| | | | | taken | | | not completed | |
| Pasteurised | ... | ... | ... | 27 | ... | 15 | ... | 6 |
| Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) | | | | 15 | ... | 7 | ... | 3 |
| Tuberculin Tested | | ... | ... | 8 | ... | 7 | ... | — |
| Accredited | ... | ... | ... | 6 | ... | 3 | ... | — |
| Non-designated — Heat treated | | | | 6 | ... | 5 | ... | — |
| | Raw | | ... | 55 | ... | 34 | ... | — |

Milk Special Designation Order

Licences for designated milk were granted as follows :—

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Pasteuriser's Licence | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Tuberculin Tested Bottling | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Dealer's Licence : | | | | | |
| Pasteurised | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Tuberculin Tested | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| | | | | — | 14 |
| Dealer's Supplementary Licence : | | | | | |
| Pasteurised | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Tuberculin Tested | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| | | | | — | 11 |

Ice Cream

There are seven premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, and 26 premises for the storage and sale of ice cream. In addition, there are a number of vendors who are registered with neighbouring authorities selling from vans and tricycles.

Samples of ice cream gave these results of provisional gradings :—

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----|----|---------|-----|----|
| Grade 1 | ... | 16 | Grade 3 | ... | 9 |
| Grade 2 | ... | 7 | Grade 4 | ... | 15 |
| | | — | | | — |
| | | 23 | | | 24 |
| | | — | | | — |

In addition to these samples one (an ice lolly) was submitted for report but the Laboratory was unable to carry out the usual test for ice cream.

Several samples were taken from one manufacturer during various stages of manufacture with the result that the last samples taken were Grade 1 as against the earlier Grade 4.

The results of these gradings show an improvement on those for the previous year when Grades 1 and 2 only formed 13·3% of the total as against 47·9% for the present year.

Meat and Other Foods

Details of inspection and condemnation of foods, etc., are included in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION VI

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

From a study of the Infectious Diseases returns, it will be seen that, although there was a marked increase in the number of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough compared with the figures for 1947, there was no epidemic of serious infectious disease.

Scarlet Fever

Thirty-three cases of this disease were notified compared with 38 in 1947. All cases were of the mild prevailing type.

Diphtheria

Only 1 case was notified during the year. (There were 2 cases in 1947.)

Poliomyelitis

This disease showed a slight rise from 8 cases in 1947 to 10 cases in 1948 with 1 death.

Measles

Four hundred and forty-three cases of this disease were reported compared with 297 for the previous year.

Whooping Cough

The number of cases of Whooping Cough increased from 71 in 1947 to 154 in 1948.

Tuberculosis

Notifications showed reductions from 39 to 28 Pulmonary and from 5 to 3 Non-Pulmonary, the total being 31 cases for 1948.

The total number of deaths was 12 and the death rate 0·28 per thousand of the population.

ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1948

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit herewith my annual report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors. The presentation of this report has been delayed due to the death of Dr. J. L. Hill, your Medical Officer of Health, early in March of 1949.

The increasing use of moveable dwellings and the absence of main drainage in large areas of the Council's district still gave rise to many problems, and whilst there did not appear to be any immediate solution of the former, an important step forward in the latter instance occurred early in the year when the local public inquiry was held by the Minister of Health in respect of proposals for works of sewerage and sewage disposal in eleven parishes.

The disposal of trade wastes from adjoining industrial areas gave rise to unsatisfactory conditions but as dry tip sites are not unlimited the risk of nuisances in the district will grow less, and industries will be forced to take more heed of this aspect of their business.

In conclusion I take this opportunity of again recording my thanks and appreciation to all my colleagues of every Department for ready co-operation and assistance in carrying out the varied duties of my Office.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. G. CORNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(a) Meat

Slaughtering of animals for the supply of home-killed meat to the district generally is carried out at the Government Slaughterhouse at Gerrards Cross. As in previous years, the inspection has been carried out by three Sanitary Inspectors working on a weekly rota and involving considerable amount of their time after office hours and occasionally on Sundays. Certain minor improvements were carried out at the Slaughterhouse.

Details of visits and inspections are given below and by comparison with the figures for 1947 it is noteworthy that although the number of animals examined was less in 1948, the number of visits to Slaughterhouse was more.

| | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| Total number of visits to Slaughterhouse | ... | 194 |
| Total number of animals examined | ... .. | 3,885 |

| | Cattle ex. Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|-----------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
| Animals slaughtered | 1,077 | 193 | 165 | 2,379 | 71 |
| DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS | | | | | |
| 1. Whole carcases condemned ... | Nil | Nil | Nil | 6 | Nil |
| 2. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 263 | 46 | Nil | 61 | 10 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis | 24.41 | 23.83 | — | 2.81 | 14.08 |
| TUBERCULOSIS ONLY | | | | | |
| 1. Whole carcases condemned ... | 5 | 10 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 2. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 135 | 42 | Nil | Nil | 5 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis... | 15.70 | 26.94 | — | — | 7.04 |

(b) Condemned Foods other than Home-killed Meat

As the result of inspections of foods other than home-killed meat, the following articles of food were condemned in its then state as unfit for human consumption.

MEAT

- 86 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of home-killed beef (deep-seated decomposition and bruising).
- 119 lbs. of imported beef (deep-seated decomposition).
- 209 lbs. of corned beef in tins (plus 1 tin).
- 39 lbs. of bacon.
- 19 tins of assorted tinned meats.

FISH

- 6 stones of fresh haddocks.
- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of herrings.
- 2 boxes of kippers.
- 215 tins of fish (of these 162 were Norwegian herring "Tid-Bits").

MISCELLANEOUS

- 50 lbs. of assorted sweets.
- 2 tins of asparagus.
- 2 tins of fruit cocktail.
- 5 tins of beans (baked).
- 2 tins of peas.
- 72 tins of evaporated and condensed milk.
- 11 tins of stuffed olives.
- 20 tins of spaghetti.
- 6 tins of grapefruit.
- 6 tins of marmalade.
- 57 lbs. of oranges.
- 18 tins of quinces.
- 2 tins of spinach.
- 84 lbs. of potatoes.
- 56 lbs. of figs.
- 57 tins of mixed vegetables (carrots, peas, etc.).
- 2 tins of miscellaneous food.
- 3 bottles of damsons.
- 1 bottle of cherries.
- 25 lbs. of Carre de l'Est cheeses.
- 72 lbs. of butter.
- 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of cream-filled chocolates.
- 19 tins of soup (mixed).
- 10 tins of fruit (rhubarb, etc.).
- 1 tin of dried eggs.

Disposal of Condemned Food

The disposal of condemned meat at the Government Slaughterhouse is under the control of the Ministry of Food. In respect of other condemned foods this is disposed of on the lines of the instructions given by the Ministries of Health and Food.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

The number of licences issued to persons authorising them to slaughter animals was 11, including 10 renewals.

Movable Dwellings

The housing shortage is reflected in the increasing number of persons driven to use movable dwellings for permanent or semi-permanent occupation and the number of applications shows a corresponding increase.

The total number of applications made in pursuance of the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269, was 143, as indicated in the following table. The corresponding figures for the year 1947 are shown in brackets.

| | SITES | | INDIVIDUAL CARAVANS | |
|-------------------|-------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| | New | Renewals | New | Renewals |
| Applications made | 3 (1) | 10 (10) | 54 (27) | 76 (49) |
| Granted | 3 (1) | 10 (8) | 37 (24) | 76 (44) |
| Refused | — | — (2) | 17 (3) | — (5) |

Rodent Destruction

This work has been carried out by the Rodent Officer on the same lines as for the previous years using the methods advised by the Ministry of Food and can be summarised as :—

| | |
|---|-------|
| Notifications | 379 |
| Surveys and inspections | 1,045 |
| Baitings, gassings and trappings | 1,279 |
| Dead rats found | 1,036 |
| Dead mice found | 124 |

Refuse Tips

A comprehensive report was made in August in relation to 12 private tipping sites in the district and situated mainly to the west and north of Slough. Attention was drawn to the fact that most if not all of the refuse deposited by contractors was industrial waste from Slough Trading Estate, and varied in character from foundry wastes, light iron (cans, drums, etc.), scarf, waste animal foods, gas works wastes (bog ore—ferric oxide), rubber, cork, paper, to paint residues, etc. Reference was made to the nuisances which had arisen from fierce and extensive fires giving off fumes and smoke, offensive smells, insect and vermin infestations. It was pointed out that the majority of these tips were old gravel workings free of water but that at some later date, having regard to the rapidly diminishing space, it may become the practice or desirable to tip certain classes of trade wastes into the large excavated areas to the South of Slough, e.g., Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury, Colnbrook, and, to a small extent, at Taplow. These last-mentioned gravel and ballast workings had a high level of standing water.

Industrialists do not as yet appear to be aware of the problems likely to arise in the future in the disposal of trade wastes but it is to be hoped that this Council will be in a position to meet it from the public health administration point of view with additional legal powers by Byelaws or otherwise.

HOUSING

New Houses

The following houses were erected during the year :—

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) By the Council | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 208 |
| (2) By Private Enterprise | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 35 |

Housing progress at 31st December, 1948, as extracted from Appendix B to Quarterly Housing Returns of the Minister of Health, as follows :—

(a) Sites :

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Possession obtained, development or house development not yet begun | ... | ... | ... | 102 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Developed or under development, house erection not yet begun | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

(b) Permanent houses :

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number on approved tenders | ... | ... | ... | 445 |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number under construction | ... | ... | ... | 95 |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number completed at 31.12.48 | ... | ... | ... | 268 |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|

(c) Rebuilding war destroyed houses :

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Number completed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|

(d) Temporary houses :

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number completed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

(e) Private Enterprise :

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of licences issued | ... | ... | ... | ... | 173 |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number under construction | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number completed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 120 |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Rebuilding war destroyed buildings under construction | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Rebuilding war destroyed buildings completed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

Housing Survey

Progress at 31.12.48.

- A. Estimated total number of houses to be surveyed... 5,583
- B. Houses inspected and classified in accordance with the
Hobhouse Report :—

| Category | Classification | |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Satisfactory in all respects | | 2,163 |
| 2. Minor defects only | | 1,487 |
| 3. Requiring structural alteration or repair | ... | 742 |
| 4. Suitable for reconditioning | | — |
| 5. Unfit for habitation and requiring demolition | | 90 |
| | | <hr/> 4,482 <hr/> |

Inspections, etc.

| | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| Number of houses inspected for housing defects (Rural Housing Survey) | ... .. | 1,198 |
| Number of visits in connection with Public Health or Housing Acts ... | ... .. | 2,001 |

Formal Action under Housing Acts

Individual houses which were considered as being incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense and beyond further temporary repair were dealt with as follows :—

| | | |
|--|--------|---|
| Demolition Order made | ... .. | 2 |
| Undertakings accepted in respect of | ... .. | 2 |
| Premises demolished where Undertakings previously given | ... .. | 2 |
| Premises demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order | | 5 |

Formal Notices

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------|-----|
| Housing Act (Section 9) | ... .. | Nil |
| Public Health Acts | ... .. | 101 |

Court Proceedings

It was necessary in certain instances to take proceedings in the local Magistrates' Courts to secure the enforcement of notices and otherwise in respect of appeals against notices.

Summary of Inspections

| | |
|--|-------|
| Housing (Survey) | 1,198 |
| Housing (including Public Health) | 2,001 |
| Drainage | 617 |
| Nuisances (refuse deposits, animals, dust and smoke) | 591 |
| Infestations (insect) | 54 |
| Hutted Camps | 18 |
| Movable Dwellings (including sites) | 197 |
| Refuse Tips | 68 |
| Water Supplies | 174 |
| Factories | 122 |
| Shops, Cafes, etc. (food premises) | 475 |
| Dairies | 247 |
| Ice Cream | 76 |
| Slaughterhouses | 194 |
| Knackers' Yards | 6 |
| Schools | 9 |
| Petroleum Stores | 93 |
| Miscellaneous | 89 |

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